

many distinguished local, State, and international awards.

Mel says, "Music is a picture painted on a background of silence. It is unique in that it allows our brain to see with our ears and hear with our hearts." Mel Shelton transforms the mystery and passion of Idaho and its citizens from the transcendent to the realm of the discernable, unlocking our ability to appreciate Idaho's heritage and beauty. I commend him on his lifelong dedication to music, to Idaho's children, and remarkable accomplishments as a master in his field.●

INDIANA SERVICE LEADERS SUMMIT

● Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I wish to tell you about the extraordinary young Hoosiers I recently had the privilege to meet. Last month, I hosted my second annual Service Leaders Summit to honor high school students from across Indiana for their service and dedication to their communities and hopefully to inspire them to continue serving throughout their lives.

The young men and women I met last month have answered the call to service. Some of them have helped build homes, some tutored and mentored younger students, and others have raised money to support cancer research and to feed the hungry. Several of the young men and women started service clubs on their own to address the problems in their schools and communities. Each one of the students I met spent hours making a difference in their hometowns and together they have impacted the lives of thousands of Hoosiers.

The student leaders heard from Hoosiers of all backgrounds who have chosen to dedicate their lives to serving others. The speakers focused on the different aspects that make up a successful service project: inspiration, organization, dedication, evaluation and reflection. Following the speeches, the students and I prepared care packages to send to Hoosier troops serving in Iraq. Later, the students planted nearly 170 trees at a local park. Through their work together, these student leaders were able to experience the dramatic results from the power of service.

Robert F. Kennedy once said that "Some men see things as they are and say 'Why?' I dream of things that never were and say, 'Why not?'" Each one of these young men and women have already asked themselves "why not?" and have worked to make positive changes in their communities. They represent a new generation of promise with the potential to make a real difference across Indiana and the Nation.

I would like to thank each one of the following individuals for participating in the summit and for their service to their communities: Jennifer Ahoni, Kayla Ambers, Ashley Amerman, Carrie Anderson, Emily Backer, Kristy Backfish, Robin Baker, Shayla

Bearman, Jennifer Behzadi, William Bennett, Hannah Bessinger, Natalie Binkholder, Joseph Bizjak, Allison Blumenthal, Jessica Bous, Theodore Bourke, Josh Bowman, Eric Brichto, Bethany Brisco, Benjamin Brock, Sabrina Bruce, Stefan Burk, Mitch Burk, Jennifer Burks, Tyler Camp, Stacey Carroll, David Chan, Abby Charlesworth, Maria Clark, Chelsie Clausar, Michael Coffee, Nick Creager, Kelley Day, Jill Devine, Sydney DeVries, Caitlin DeWater, Lauren Dinsmore, Shane Dixon, Danielle Dresner, Stefanie Dyar, Chloe Eavinger, Kahler Elliott, Alyssa Flannery, Jeniece Fleming, Michelle Foisy, John Ford, Matthew Frye, Marcus Gadison, Christina Gephart, Julie Gidley, Emily Giles, Matt Green, Nicole Hakes, Deiter Hammerstein, Katelyn Hausman, Jennifer Hayden, Cory Heimann, Kristy Hentchel, Eric Hilton, Lorin Hinsberger, Daniel Hodgkiss, Julia Horn, Yin Huang, Maurice Jackson, Jonathan Jackson, Ryan Johnson, Jonathan Jones, Amanda Jursic, Caitlin Kelley, Krystle King, Kyle Kinnett, Becky Klimaszewski, Lana Knox, Jeremy Kunzman, Andrew Landis, Michelle Lavengood, Alyssa Lee, Kara Levell, Cassandra Lewis, Kristen Liming, Cara Lonis, Lauren Looney, Shandra Lynch, Kevina Lyons, Connie Mach, Meredith Marschand, Krystle Martin, Emelie Martlage, Sarah Matney, Mallory McClain, Bernie McGee, Brittney McPheeters, Lauren Mesinger, Bryan Meyer, Andrea Miller, Mark Modesitt, Jessica Moore, Alex Munder, Cassie Myers, Jessica Niksich, Collin Northcutt, Tyler Orem, Nick Oschman, Elizabeth Otte, Joyce Partyka, Heather Peebles, Steven Pelych, Monica Poplawski, Kolin Pound, Sheena Reed, Sieyda Requeno, Meredith Ress, Elizabeth Rice, Rachel Robbins, Brooke Robertson, Ashley Rodarmel, Zach Rodgers, Chantal Roullins, Kimberly Roush, Ben Schrodt, Allison Shafer, Megan Sikes, Jessica Singleton, Anthony Smith, Larissa Smith, Kristen Stout, Hannah Streeval, James Strycker, Randall Suggs, Kate Summers, Megan Sutherland, Katie Terrell, Lindsay Terry, Tracey Todd, David Toupin, Nicole Tow, Lyndsay Trauner, Brandon Tucker, Melissa Van Westrum, James Victory, Ryan Waggoner, Ben Walker, Shaun Wendel, Lauren Wendling, Sarah Wermuth, Alexander Whiteman, J.D. Willett, Chase Winkle, Olivia Worland, Taryn Zubele.●

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM AND CONNIE HUDGENS

● Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize a couple of my constituents who are celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary. William Randle and Connie Marie Hudgens celebrated their anniversary on November 10th.

Mr. Hudgens was born in Cornersville, AR, January 16, 1915. He moved to England, AR, in 1922 where he

met and married his bride, Connie Marie Saulter, born in England January 4, 1917.

They were married in the bride's home in England November 10, 1934.

Mr. Hudgens is a retired farmer and heavy equipment operator. He helped with the construction of Interstates 30 and 40. Mrs. Hudgens retired from Wal-Mart and worked many other jobs before. But her most important and rewarding job was as a wife and mother.

They have two daughters, Joyce Cates of North Little Rock and Sandra Evans of Lonoke.

They are also blessed with 6 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. Hudgens now reside in Lonoke where they attend, and Mr. Hudgens is a deacon emeritus of Lonoke Baptist Church.●

TRIBUTE TO NORM NIELSEN

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I want to salute Norm Nielsen, president of Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids, IO, on his upcoming retirement. Dr. Nielsen has served the college and the greater community with dedication through both good and difficult times. During his tenure, and because of his commitment, talent and hard work, Kirkwood Community College has become a major contributor to economic development in Eastern Iowa.

During Dr. Nielsen's illustrious 18-year tenure at Kirkwood, the college has become the third largest institution of higher education in Iowa. Its excellence has been recognized with numerous honors and awards. For example, Kirkwood was named by the National Alliance of Business as its 2000-01 Community College of the Year.

I have known Norm for many years. I respect him as a true visionary who has helped to shape and transform the mission of our Nation's community college system. I respect him as a builder of programs and partnerships focused to enhance the quality of life in Eastern Iowa. Most of all, I respect Norm as a builder of people, a dedicated educator who believes in the transforming power of higher education and advanced training.

I salute Norm for his extraordinary work over the years in improving Iowa's community college system. I know that we can count on him to continue to play a contributing role even in retirement.

Norm Nielsen's leadership will be missed. But he will leave Kirkwood Community College in good hands, as Mick Starcevic takes over as president. Dr. Starcevic was previously superintendent of Prairie Community School District. Norm Nielsen is a tough act to follow, but I know that Mick is superbly qualified to take on the challenge of leading Kirkwood Community College into the future.●

TRIBUTE TO WENDELL L.
JOHNSON

• Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, today I commend an outstanding Virginian, Mr. Wendell L. Johnson, whose work has adorned the walls of many members of the House of Representatives. The "Member of Congress" seal designed by Mr. Johnson has been used numerous times by our federal legislators over the years, and he deserves the acknowledgment of this chamber for his service to the United States.

As a young man of 18 years, Mr. Johnson enlisted in the Army to help his country during World War II. Rising to the rank of Sergeant, he earned a Good Conduct Medal before being honorably discharged in December 1945. Continuing a career of public service, Mr. Johnson joined the staff of United States Representative Alvin E. O'Konski of Wisconsin. While assisting the congressman in preparation for a televised speech in 1958, Mr. Johnson astutely realized that the viewing audience, who soon would be tuning in with this new medium, might not be able to identify Representative O'Konski at first sight. Understanding correctly the value of the congressman's image on television, Mr. Johnson hurried to the hardware store for the tools and supplies necessary to create a logo dignified enough to appear with a member of the United States Congress. By the time that the good people of Wisconsin had turned on their RCAs and Zeniths, Representative O'Konski spoke proudly from behind a podium bearing Johnson's exceptional "Member of Congress" seal.

While not the official seal of either the House of Representatives or the Senate, Mr. Johnson's noble design represented the first insignia and plaque used for an individual member of the United States Congress. In the decade following its first use, his handiwork became very popular among Representative O'Konski's colleagues in the House. Mr. Johnson was thrilled to see orders for his product from the House Stationery Clerk, and he made a hobby of providing plaques to a host of members, including Harold Ostertag, Louis Wyman, Bill Brock, Dan Rostenkowski, and Donald Rumsfeld.

Mr. Johnson's artistry expertly reflects the dignity and honor of the legislative branch. Featuring a proud eagle under a field of fourteen stars, the circular plaque bears the words "Member of Congress" above the name of our nation. A banner of "E Pluribus Unum" is clutched in the beak of the eagle, which holds in its talons a branch of olives and three arrows. Mr. Johnson's design has earned the esteem of many, as it has appeared on Congressional stationery, the official oil portrait of two committee chairmen, and even a number of gravestones.

I thank you for the opportunity today to give Mr. Wendell L. Johnson the recognition that he so rightly deserves for his service to Congress. •

PREMATURITY AWARENESS DAY

• Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I rise today to draw attention to a growing number of premature births in the United States. The March of Dimes has declared November 16th Prematurity Awareness Day. This event is part of a five-year plan, launched in 2003, to use the combined power of awareness, education, and research to significantly decrease the number of premature births in the United States.

The rise in premature births throughout the country and in my own State—despite all of our achievements in medicine—is astounding. Nationally, more than 480,000 babies were born preterm in 2002. Nearly 13 percent of Indiana's infants are born preterm and in half of the cases, doctors cannot identify the cause. Prematurity is the leading cause of infant death in the first month of life. Many of these infants will suffer lifelong health problems—such as cerebral palsy, mental retardation, chronic lung disease, and vision and hearing loss—and some will die. Reducing the number of premature births will improve the health of hundreds of thousands of infants born each year.

Aside from these human costs, the financial cost of caring for preterm infants is enormous. The March of Dimes estimates that the national hospital bill for infants with a diagnosis of prematurity/low birthweight was \$13.6 billion in 2001.

I am pleased to be a cosponsor of S. 1726, the PREEMIE Act, legislation that seeks to expand and coordinate research on the prevention of preterm birth and the most effective care for babies when they are born preterm.

Senator LINCOLN and I have also introduced S. 1734, the Prevent Prematurity and Improve Child Health Act, which seeks to improve Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program to better reflect our current state of knowledge on preterm birth. For example, medical research tells us that smoking is a considerable risk factor for preterm and low birthweight infants. Our bill takes this knowledge and translates it into practice by ensuring that smoking cessation services and pharmaceuticals are available for pregnant women enrolled in Medicaid.

My wife Char and I have been longtime volunteers for the March of Dimes and I am pleased that they are committing such an enormous amount of time, energy and resources into conquering the stubborn problem of preterm birth with their five-year Prematurity Campaign. Both of these bills have the potential to make a real difference in many lives and I hope that our colleagues will consider joining us in this effort.

I am proud to tell you that the Indiana March of Dimes Chapter has many events planned for Prematurity Awareness Day. I commend the March of Dimes for its dedication in working toward a day when babies and their fami-

lies no longer have to face the devastating consequences of premature birth. I call on my colleagues to join the fight against premature birth. •

• Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I rise today to draw attention to a serious issue—the growing number of premature births in the United States. According to the National Center for Health Statistics, 480,000 babies were born prematurely—that is, born at less than 37 completed weeks of gestation—in 2002. The number of premature births in the United States increased 27 percent between 1982 and 2002.

In my own State of Idaho ten percent of babies born in 2002 were preterm, and the rate of preterm births in Idaho has risen 21 percent since 1992. The preterm rate for our Native American population was 12.8 percent and 11 percent in our Hispanic community. In addition, 6.1 percent of all babies born in Idaho had a low birth weight. It is even higher for Hispanic babies—6.9 percent of them are born with low birth weight, higher than the national average.

The March of Dimes has begun to address the issue of prematurity and health disparities by funding prenatal education and outreach projects in different parts of Idaho. Two projects are in our largest cities, Boise and Nampa, and target low-income and low-income Hispanic women and one outreach project is on a rural reservation. Finally, the March of Dimes is funding a smoking cessation project for pregnant women in one of our northern cities, Lewiston.

The March of Dimes has declared November 16th Prematurity Awareness Day. This event is part of a 5-year plan, launched in 2003, to use the combined power of awareness, education, and research to significantly decrease the number of premature births in the United States. In Idaho this week there will be media coverage spotlighting prematurity awareness, and pink and blue street lights in downtown Boise for 2 weeks drawing public attention to the issue. In addition, many retailers will be providing free information to shoppers about the early warning signs of prematurity.

Let me share the story of this year's Idaho ambassador family. During a routine medical exam, the mother of twins Morgan and Max was placed on immediate bed rest due to signs of preterm labor. Fortunately, when Morgan and Max were born 10 weeks early, they received specialized medical care at the neonatal intensive care unit and were able to come home after just five weeks. Today they are healthy, vibrant toddlers.

Thanks to research being supported by the March of Dimes, doctors are better able to identify signs of preterm labor—a life-saving factor in the case of Morgan and Max. Advances made by the March of Dimes in the treatment of premature babies—like surfactant therapy—gave these twins a good start toward a healthy life.

The March of Dimes has long been a national leader in the fight for infant